

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9762

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 0384

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS SY XF

SUBJ: VIEWS OF RABIN AND PERES ON SYRIAN/PLO RELATIONSHIP

REF: TEL AVIV 0337

1. DEPT WILL HAVE NOTED THAT PERES' VIEWS ON DEGREE OF SYRIAN COMMITMENT TO PLO IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR (REFTEL) ARE IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THOSE ESPOUSED BY RABIN IN HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMEN FRENZEL AND CORMAN. ON ONE HAND, PERES STATED HIS BELIEF THAT IF US AND ISRAEL MAINTAIN SOLID FRONT AGAINST SYRIAN INSISTENCE ON INVOLVING PLO IN NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT SYRIA WILL EVENTUALLY BACK OFF AND FOCUS ON ITS OWN INTEREST IN GETTING BACK TERRITORY. TAKING EXACTLY OPPOSITE TACK, RABIN TOLD CONGRESS LAST WEEK THAT SYRIA WAS FULLY COMMITTED TO PLO AND PREPARED TO SACRIFICE ITS OWN INTERESTS IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATION WITH US AND ISRAEL.

2. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RABIN AND PERES INDEED HAVE TOTALLY DIFFERENT VIEWS OF SYRIAN/PLO RELATIONSHIP, MORE PROBABLE EXPLANATION IS THAT THEY WERE ADDRESSING DIFFERENT AUDIENCES FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES. RABIN WAS MAKING HIS POINT TO CONGRESSMEN WHOSE BACKING ISRAEL NEEDS BOTH ON AID BILL AND ON BROADER ISSUE OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL EVEN IF GOING GETS ROUGH. PERES ON OTHER HAND WAS OFFERING HIS CONFIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT TO TRY TO INFLUENCE US TO HOLD FIRM IN UNSC BY HOLDING OUT PROSPECT OF POSSIBLE SYRIAN-

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ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS UNDER US AUSPICES IF WE DO SO.

TOON

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